

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01

GSA-02 RSC-01 /042 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:HJCOHEN:LS

8/30/73 EXT 22080

APPROVED BY AF/C:HJCOHEN

EB/ICD/ISM - MR. MEYERS (DRAFT)

----- 103579

R 301836Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 173036

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP MA US

SUBJ: UNION CARBIDE INTEREST IN GRAPHITE

SUMMARY: UNION CARBIDE WOULD LIKE TO INCREASE PURCHASE OF GRAPHITE FROM MADAGASCAR BY CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS. COMPANY CONCERNED THAT AVAILABILITY OF GRAPHITE THROUGH TRADITIONALLY UTILIZED CHANNELS -- AMERICAN IMPORTERS -- HAS BEEN MUCH TOO ERRATIC IN RECENT YEARS. WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PURCHASE DIRECTLY IN MADAGASCAR AND ARE NOW BEGINNING TO EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY. END SUMMARY

1. UNION CARBIDE OFFICIALS CALLED AT DEPARTMENT (AF/C) AUGUST 29 TO DISCUSS GRAPHITE IMPORTS FROM MADAGASCAR. THEY EXPLAINED THAT COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO INCREASE PURCHASES SUBSTANTIALLY DURING NEXT TWO YEARS. PURCHASES FROM MADAGASCAR TO DATE HAVE BEEN MADE THROUGH US IMPORTERS. UNION CARBIDE HAS HAD NO DIRECT LINKS TO MADAGASCAR WITH RESPECT GRAPHITE.

2. REPS SAID COMPANY CONCERNED BECAUSE SUPPLIES OF MALAGASY GRAPHITE HAVE BEEN ERRATIC IN RECENT YEARS. FUTURE REQUIREMENTS MAKE IT ESSENTIAL THAT SUPPLIES BE ASSURED.

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COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO SOLICIT GOMR COOPERATION IN ASSURING

CONSISTENT SUPPLIES. APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED WITH MALAGASY COMMERCIAL ATTACHE TO BEGIN EXPLORING SUBJECT, BUT DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS WITH RESPECT OVERALL CLIMATE IN MADAGASCAR ALSO DESIRED.

3. DEPT OFFICER SAID THAT GOMR INTERESTED IN EXPORTING MORE AND IN DIVERSIFYING COMMERCIAL TIES SO THAT MALAGASY ECONOMIC LINKS SHOULD NO LONGER BE MONOPOLIZED BY FORMER METROPOLE. CLIMATE WOULD THEREFORE APPEAR BE FAVORABLE FOR TYPE OF INITIATIVE COMPANY NOW TAKING.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY INFORMATION OR VIEWS WITH RESPECT UNION CARBIDE'S PROBLEM WHICH EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE FOR TRANSMITTAL TO COMPANY WOULD BE APPRECIATED. ROGERS

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